

ALABAMA EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES



Child Care Services Division Publishes and Releases the Alabama Early Learning Guidelines

In 2001, Congress passed the *No Child Left Behind Act*, which is an education reform bill. The goal of the Act is for every child to be reading at grade level by third grade. President and Mrs. Bush recognized that efforts to achieve the goals of *No Child Left Behind* must start before children enter kindergarten.

In April 2002, the Bush Administration announced the *Good Start, Grow Smart (GSGS)* initiative to help States and local communities strengthen early learning experiences for young children. The goal of *GSGS* is to ensure that young children enter kindergarten with the skills they will need to succeed at reading and other early learning experiences.

***GSGS* called on States and Territories to develop voluntary guidelines to address early reading and early math concepts for children ages 3 through 5 years.** Alabama chose to develop guidelines for children birth through five years. These guidelines address five areas: self-concept/emotional development, social development, language and literacy development, physical development and cognitive development. The **Guidelines** may be used by anyone who cares for young children and are on the DHR website at www.dhr.alabama.gov.

The Alabama Early Learning Guidelines Course was developed to train individuals in ways to use the Guidelines. Individuals who complete **all nine sessions** of the course will receive a credential issued by the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR). DHR contract trainers will be training on the Guidelines throughout the state. Check our website for a Quality Enhancement Agency near you.